

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
OFFICE OF THE YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU

Patricia Michalak, MA
Youth Service Bureau Coordinator



February 9, 2016
12:00 noon @ Mansfield Town Hall
Conf. Rm. B

Board Members

Present:

Ethel Mantzaris, Chair
Pat Schneider, Director of Human Services
Patricia Michalak, YSB Coordinator
Maggie Ferron, Early Childhood Services Coordinator
Eileen Griffin, LCSW
Annastasia Martineau, Senior at EO Smith High School and Mansfield Resident
Danielle Pace, UConn senior, intern with Patricia Michalak

I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 12:03 PM by Ethel Mantzaris.

II. Introduction of Prospective New Members of Advisory Board:

- Danielle Pace is a UConn senior majoring in HDFS, and is interning with Patricia Michalak this semester. She has been working to create more intergenerational activities for the town, including oral histories.

III. Approval of minutes

- Approval of minutes January 12th, 2016

IV. Reports

- Director's Report – Patricia Schneider
 - The budget for this year has been submitted
 - We are working towards sustaining programs in early childhood development
- Coordinator's Report – Patricia Michalak

Cope Orientation: Orientation was conducted at all three elementary schools for new Volunteers. Spring semester is beginning with more Little's and more Big's. Schools have been cooperative giving us referrals and accommodating us in the schools.

Senior Interest Survey: This Interest Survey was piloted at Glen Ridge. The Interest Survey was well received by the community and we look forward to the results to help us with intergenerational activity planning. Will elaborate later in the meeting as an agenda item.

Girl's Night Out: A group of 12 girls referred by the Middle School attended, and based on their positive feedback we have decided to make this an ongoing program. We will elaborate later in the meeting as it is an agenda item.

Legislative Breakfast: YSB participated in a regional breakfast to promote support of Youth Services.

Connecticut Adoptive and Foster Parents CAFAP: Staff attended a regional meeting with other towns who also provide a Grandparents Raising Grandchildren group and discussed ways to work together to lobby for funding for Grandparents and also to get the word out to Grandparents who are raising grandchildren as to services available.

Mommy and Me: Youth Services has been working to develop this group over the last several months and is attempting to reach mothers who are isolated from the community. We have extended our meeting places to the library, and hope to use the other town resources to attract new members.

EASTCONN: Francine Piela, Adventure Learning Specialist, facilitated Team Building and positive youth development with our Middle School girls. We are looking forward to working with her more in the future.

MAC Community Update emails: We have been receiving positive feedback about the weekly emails, as community members appreciate information about events and issues related to young children.

MAC Meeting: The newly created Office of Early Childhood presented their 4 year strategic plan, and solicited feedback from attendees, who included: Legislators, MAC members, and colleagues from Coventry

V. Old Business

- **Conversation Club:** Started again this past Saturday, although there was not as big of a turnout due to the snow. There are six more meetings planned over the next two months.
- **Mommy and Me Group**
- **Middle School After School's Girl's group:** The girls shared an excellent bonding experience with each other and their post surveys showed a strong positive response.

VI. New Business:

- **Glen Ridge Interest Survey:** The Interest Survey piloted at Glen Ridge to help us understand their areas of involvement and what kind of activities they would be interested in learning more about, as well as intergenerational and oral histories.
- **Oral History Intergenerational Project:** Annastasia Martineau and Chloe Chibeau are working with Danielle Pace and Patricia Michalak to conduct oral history interviews, piloting them at Glen Ridge. They have done three so far

which have been received very well by both the seniors and the students, who enjoyed hearing and telling their stories and look forward to future intergenerational activities.

VII. Other:

VIII. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 12:33pm; March 8th, 2016 is the next meeting.